

### REMARKS

The description and claim 1 have been amended so as to overcome the formal objections.

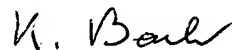
Concerning the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a), it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, which has been accepted by the Examiner as being allowable.

Reconsideration of claim 1 as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 defines a feature which is advantageous in connection with the hydraulic valve clearance control element operating system. It is furthermore dependent on claim 1 and consequently includes all the features of claim 1 so that it should be patentable together with claim 1 already for that reason. The same is true for claims 4 to 6 which are now dependent on claim 1.

Allowance of claims 1 and 3 to 6 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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